

Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Membership Balance Plan

Please read the Federal Advisory Committee Membership Balance Plan Guidance prior to completing this form

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)
(1) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NAME <i>State the legal name of the FAC</i>
North Slope Science Initiative Science Technical Advisory Panel (Panel)
(2) AUTHORITY <i>Identify the authority for establishing the FAC</i>
The Panel is a statutory advisory committee established under Section 348(d), of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801); Section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as amended (43 U.S.C. 1739); the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600); Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a); and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131). The Panel is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.
(3) MISSION/FUNCTION <i>Describe the mission/function of the FAC</i>
The Panel provides advice to the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the BLM, and the North Slope Science Oversight Group, through the Designated Federal Officer, on proposed inventory, monitoring, and research functions in the North Slope.
(4) POINTS OF VIEW <i>Based on understanding the purpose of the FAC, (a) describe the process that will be used to ensure the committee is balanced, and identify the categories (e.g. individual expertise or represented interests) from which candidates will be considered; (b) consider identifying an anticipated relative distribution of candidates across the categories; and (c) explain how a determination was made to appoint any individuals as Special Government Employees or Representative members</i>
The panel consists of a representative group of 15 scientists and technical experts from diverse professions and interests, including the oil and gas industry, subsistence users, Native Alaskan entities, conservation organizations, wildlife management organizations, and academia, as determined by the Secretary. All 15 members of the Panel are Special Government Employees because of their specialized knowledge within their respective disciplines.
(5) OTHER BALANCE FACTORS <i>List any other factors your agency identifies as important in achieving a balanced FAC</i>
Not applicable
(6) CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS <i>Summarize the process intended to be used to identify candidates for the FAC, key resources expected to be tapped to identify candidates and the key persons (by position, not name) who will evaluate FAC balance. The summary should: (a) describe the process (b) identify the agency key staff involved (by position, not name) (c) briefly describe how FAC vacancies, if any, will be handled by the agency; and (d) state the membership term limit of FAC members, if applicable</i>

In order to obtain members, the Director of the North Slope Science Initiative announces a 45-day open call for nominations period in the Federal Register. During the open period, the North Slope Science Initiative Director sends a news release to all applicable media outlets to solicit nominations. The call for nominations is also posted on the North Slope Science Initiative website.

The North Slope Science Initiative Director selects the nominees. The recommendations are then forwarded to the BLM Director, before being sent on to the Department of the Interior (DOI) and DOI White House Liaison for vetting and approval. Panel members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

According to 43 CFR 1784, "A vacancy occurring by reason of removal, resignation, death, or departure from elected office shall be filled for the balance of the vacating member's term using the same method by which the original appointment was made."

Panel members serve 3-year terms, and can be re-nominated to serve additional 3-year terms.

(7) SUBCOMMITTEE BALANCE

Subcommittees subject to FACA should either state that the process for determining FAC member balance on subcommittees is the same as the process for the parent FAC, or describe how it is different*

**This is relevant to those agencies that require their subcommittees to follow all FACA requirements.*

Subcommittees are not subject to FACA because they are not providing advice directly to a Federal Officer of the Department of the Interior. All advice or work products go directly to the parent Committee for review, consideration and deliberation at a FAC meeting before being submitted to the Department of the Interior through the DFO.

(8) OTHER

Provide any additional information that supports the balance of the FAC

Not applicable

(9) DATE PREPARED/UPDATED

Insert the actual date the Membership Balance Plan was initially prepared, along with the date(s) the Plan is updated

May 3, 2012